

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

November 5, 2013

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight, Chairperson, Keith Vinci, Marie Hurley, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Phil Cacciola

Staff Present: Karen Nocera, Staff, Recreation/Community Services, Debbie Stanley, Acting Director Recreation/Community Services

Absent: Joseph Carta, Richard Pelletier, Steven Shapiro, Abigail Nolan, Youth in Government

General Public: none

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:05pm.

3. Public Hearing: none

4. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Oct. 1, 2013, was made by August DeFrance and seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion was passed.

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance discussed that the Building Committee is meeting once a month. They are paying bills and going over financing. The Military Museum is off of the property. We will be in the new senior center at this time next year. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight asked Marie Hurley about the sump pump project. Marie just attended the first Mattabasset Project meeting. They are still discussing budgets and changes. She received all of the plans at the meeting. Phil Cacciola explained that the building will be built accessible by law. The State of Connecticut will have to approve the building plans. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules stated that everything at Monarca Place has been very quiet. There will be a party on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 1:00pm. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera discussed the downtown Trick or Treat event. The Lions Club was one of the vendors. Ellie and Marty handed out candy to the children and also white canes for white cane day. A discussion ensued.
- Keith Vinci wrote a rough draft for the construction project at Middlesex Community College. The concern is that if the construction is not accessible than Ellie and Helen will not be able to continue to be employed. Keith will modify the letter and send it to Debbie Stanley. A discussion ensued.
- Debbie Stanley discussed that there is a new department merger. The department is now called Recreation and Community Services. This is a combination of the Recreation Department and the Senior Services Department.
- Marty Knight announced that at last night's council meeting Abigail Nolan was officially sworn in and reappointed to the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities for another year. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that Oak Hill School has a new Director, Barry Simon. He has run Gilead for the past 20 years. He is moving up to run Oak Hill School. If there are any things that we should be doing with Oak Hill or any suggestions that we can make, Barry is a good contact and he has ties to Middletown. Phil Cacciola served on the Board for Gilead for six years. On

Monday, November 11, 2013, it is Veteran's Day. We have the Governor coming at 2:00pm at Bow Lane cemetery. It would be nice to sign the Governor as he is speaking. There will be some news stations there to capture his address. Unfortunately, Keith has another commitment and will not be able to do so. In the future, we would like to get the Governor to designate the afternoon ceremony at the cemetery on Bow Lane as his/her afternoon to speak to the Veterans. Phil will be meeting with Scott Aresco to discuss how a visually impaired person will be able to find the button to push at the crosswalk. A discussion ensued. Phil will ask the Governor's office if there could be someone to sign when he is in Middletown on Veteran's Day. A discussion ensued.

- Marty Knight reminded everyone to vote today. He had difficulties again today during voting. The Moderator Tony and his assistant Earl were not aware of how to handle the process. Marty was supposed to be invited to the training session for the Moderators by the agreement that was made by the City with the State Election Enforcement Commission so it did not go further into litigation last year. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- August DeFrance mentioned that there is a great distance between the parking lot and the location of the entrance of the polling stations. Phil Cacciola stated that the polling workers get to the polling station at 5:30am and take all of the closest spaces as well as the handicapped parking spaces. It was discussed that Ken Jackson had signs made last year. All of the polling places have to be accessible. Marty will be sending an email to the Mayor's office to express the concerns regarding parking at the polling stations. A discussion ensued.
- August DeFrance discussed that the ballot was awful. He felt that it was confusing and difficult to understand. Keith Vinci discussed that the ballot was larger than the space in which to fill it out. Marie Hurley asked that next September we started opening up discussions with the Registrar's office as well as the Town Clerk to review these voting issues. A discussion ensued.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.

Adjournment: A motion of adjournment was made by August DeFrance and was seconded by Ellie Paules. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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